

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 280830Z NOV 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 657

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF KURDISH PROBLEM

REF: BAGHDAD 630

1. IN COURSE LONG DISCUSSION ON OTHER SUBJECTS NOV 27 EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR NAJJAR TOLD ME HE BELIEVED SOME KIND OF KURDISH SETTLEMENT BASED ON AUTONOMY WITHIN IRAQI REPUBLIC WAS NOW POSSIBLE BY MARCH 1974. NEITHER SIDE WAS IN MOOD TO RENEW FIGHTING AND THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ARE NOT AS FAR APART AS PRESENT BARGAINING POSITIONS SUGGEST. VIEW THAT AUTONOMY IS BOTH REALISTIC AND BEST KURDS LIKELY TO OBTAIN IS NOW ACCEPTED AMONG KURDISH ELITE. AMBASSADOR CLAIMS THAT EVEN BARZANI IS READY TO ACCEPT THIS SOLUTION. AMBASSADOR DOES NOT NECESSARILY ENVISAGE SIGNED SETTLEMENT DOCUMENT BY MARCH, BUT DE FACTO SITUATION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

2. NAJJAR DISCOUNTED IMPORTANCE RECENT CLASHES BETWEEN
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COMMUNISTS AND KURDS AND SAID GOI HAD GIVEN ARMS TO COMMUNISTS

KNOWING KURDS WOULD REACT VIOLENTLY, AS THEY DID. REAL GOVERNMENT AIM WAS TO UNDERCUT AND WEAKEN COMMUNISTS. SOVIETS WERE FURIOUS WITH ICP FOR HAVING FALLEN INTO TRAP. HE BELIEVES SOVIETS NOW WISH TO SEE SETTLEMENT AS MEANS OF STABILIZING THEIR POSITION IN IRAQ. SOVIETS HAVE NOT GIVEN UP EXPANSIONIST DESIGNS TOWARD GULF, NOR EXPLOITATION OF MIDDLE EASTERN MINORITIES FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES, BUT THEIR LARGER OBJECTIVES NOW DICTATE PUTTING SUPPORT FOR KURDS IN REFRIGERATOR. LARGER SOVIET AIMS ARE, IN NAKJAR'S VIEW, BUILDING STRONG, STABLE POSITION THROUGHOUT AREA TO KEEP CHINESE OUT AND DETENTE WITH WEST.

3. AMBASSADOR NAJJAR ALSO BELIEVES IRANIANS ARE NOW PREPARED TO STOP AID FOR KURDS IN EXCHANGE FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND END TO IRAQI SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS IN IRAN. SINCE EGYPT PLAYED ROLE IN RE-ESTABLISHMENT IRANIAN-IRAQI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, NAJJAR PROBABLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT IRAQI-IRANIAN TALKS THAN HE LET ON.

4. NAJJAR SAID EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE IN IRAQ AND GULF WAS STABILITY IN ORDER TO ENSURE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACCRUE TO ARAB WORLD. IF ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET OBJECTIVES CORRECT, HE THOUGHT POSSIBILITIES FOR STABILIZING GULF AREA WERE GOOD. LOWRIE

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